



Spectrum Youth Theatre

Your Questions Answered

Who are Smoking Apples?

Smoking Apples is a theatre company that makes puppet shows and films. We perform our shows in lots of different places, including around the world.

We also run **Spectrum Youth Theatre (SYT)** for neurodivergent young people.

What is Spectrum Youth Theatre?

SYT is a chance to meet other neurodivergent young people, get creative and have fun.

During the sessions, you might:

- Make puppets
- Make sets and scenery
- Create a story
- Write scripts
- Make a film
- Help with filming and behind-the-scenes jobs
- Play games and have fun!

After the residency, we'll edit the film. Then we'll all meet up again to watch it together with some popcorn!

Do I need a diagnosis to join?

No! You don't need a formal diagnosis or a medical certificate to take part.

Some people at SYT have a diagnosis and some don't. If you feel that you're neurodivergent, you're welcome to join us.

Do I need to know anything about puppets or theatre?

Nope! You don't need any previous experience. You don't have to be good at drawing, acting, making things or anything else. If you're interested in puppets, arts and crafts, theatre, films or being creative, come along and give it a try.



Do I have to come every day?

It's best if you can come to all of the sessions because you'll get the most out of the experience. But we understand that things happen! If you need to arrive late or leave early, talk to us and we'll see what we can do.

How old do I need to be?

SYT is usually for young people aged **12–18**.

How many people will be there?

There are usually around **12 young people** taking part.

Can my parent, carer or friend come with me?

SYT is just for young people, so parents and carers will usually drop you off and leave.

If you're worried about coming on your own, that's okay! Talk to us beforehand and we can work out what will help you feel comfortable. Friends can sometimes come too, but they also need to identify as neurodivergent.

Don't worry if you don't know anyone when you arrive. You'll have the chance to meet other people and make new friends.

Who will be there to help me?

There will always be members of the Smoking Apples team there to run the creative activities, and to provide support for the group. There will also be staff from the venue to make sure we have what we need.

We'll tell you who everyone is before the residency starts, so you'll know who to look for when you arrive.

What will I get to do?

You'll have lots of different ways to get involved. You could:

- Make puppets
- Make sets and scenery
- Help write the story or script
- Help make the film
- Work behind the scenes
- Help with directing
- You can try different things and find out what you enjoy.



What if I don't want to make a puppet?

That's completely fine! You don't have to make a puppet if you don't want to. There are lots of other jobs you can do, like writing, filming, set dressing or helping behind the scenes.

Do I have to go on camera?

No. You don't have to show your face in the film. The puppets are the ones who get to be on camera!

Do I need to bring equipment or materials?

No! We provide everything you need. Just bring yourself and wear comfortable clothes.

It's a good idea to wear clothes you don't mind getting a little bit of paint or glue on.

Does it cost anything?

No — it's completely free!

You'll just need to arrange your own travel to and from the venue. You'll also need to bring your own lunch and snacks.

Do I have to perform at the end?

No. There's no pressure to perform.

At the end of the residency, we usually have a relaxed sharing for friends and family. It's a chance to show what we've been working on and celebrate what we've made together.

You can take part in whatever way feels comfortable for you.

After that, we'll finish editing the film and arrange a screening. A few weeks or sometimes a few months later, we'll meet up, get some popcorn and watch the film we made together!

What if I have another question?

No question is too small or silly.

You can check the Smoking Apples website, contact the venue running your residency, or get in touch with the Smoking Apples team.

We're happy to chat and help you feel comfortable before you arrive.